



The President's Daily Brief

8 December 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The search for a stable cease-fire continues in Amman today. (Page 1)

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The military situation in Cambodia is discussed on Page 4.

Cuba is negotiating new long-term credits in Moscow. (Page 5)

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JORDAN

The situation in northern Jordan remains tense, but no new fighting was reported last night. Jordanian authorities report the army now controls Jarash and the main highway between Amman and the northern city of Irbid. Former Tunisian premier and chairman of the Higher Arab Committee, Bahi Ladgham, will leave Tunis today for Amman to help reorganize the cease-fire. Egyptian President Sadat encouraged Ladgham's trip

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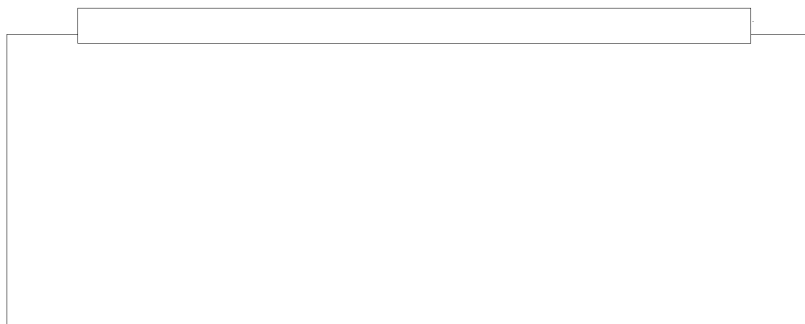
Small scattered clashes may continue in some of the more isolated villages in the north, however, where it is difficult to restore calm even with the cooperation of fedayeen leaders; once the fighting has been set in motion. The return of Ladgham should have a quieting effect, but his impact may be short-lived.

Ladgham told Ambassador Calhoun in Tunis yesterday that he does not intend to stay in Jordan more than ten days and considers this his last official visit. Ladgham said he plans to disengage from Jordanian problems and added if a continuing authority is needed in Jordan to help the cease-fire, leaders of the Arab states would have to create a new organization.

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LAOS



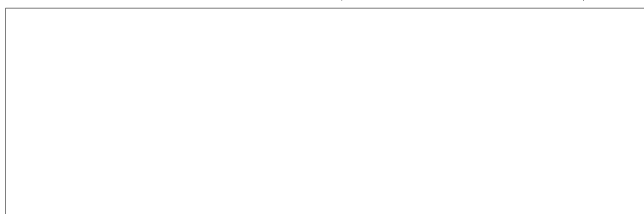
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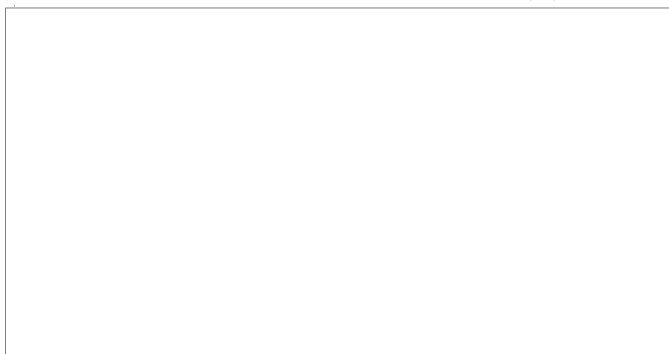
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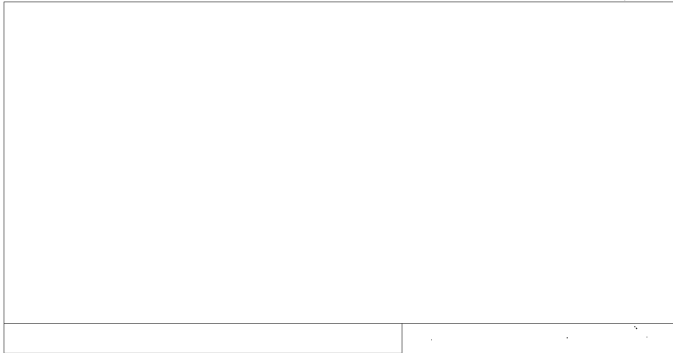


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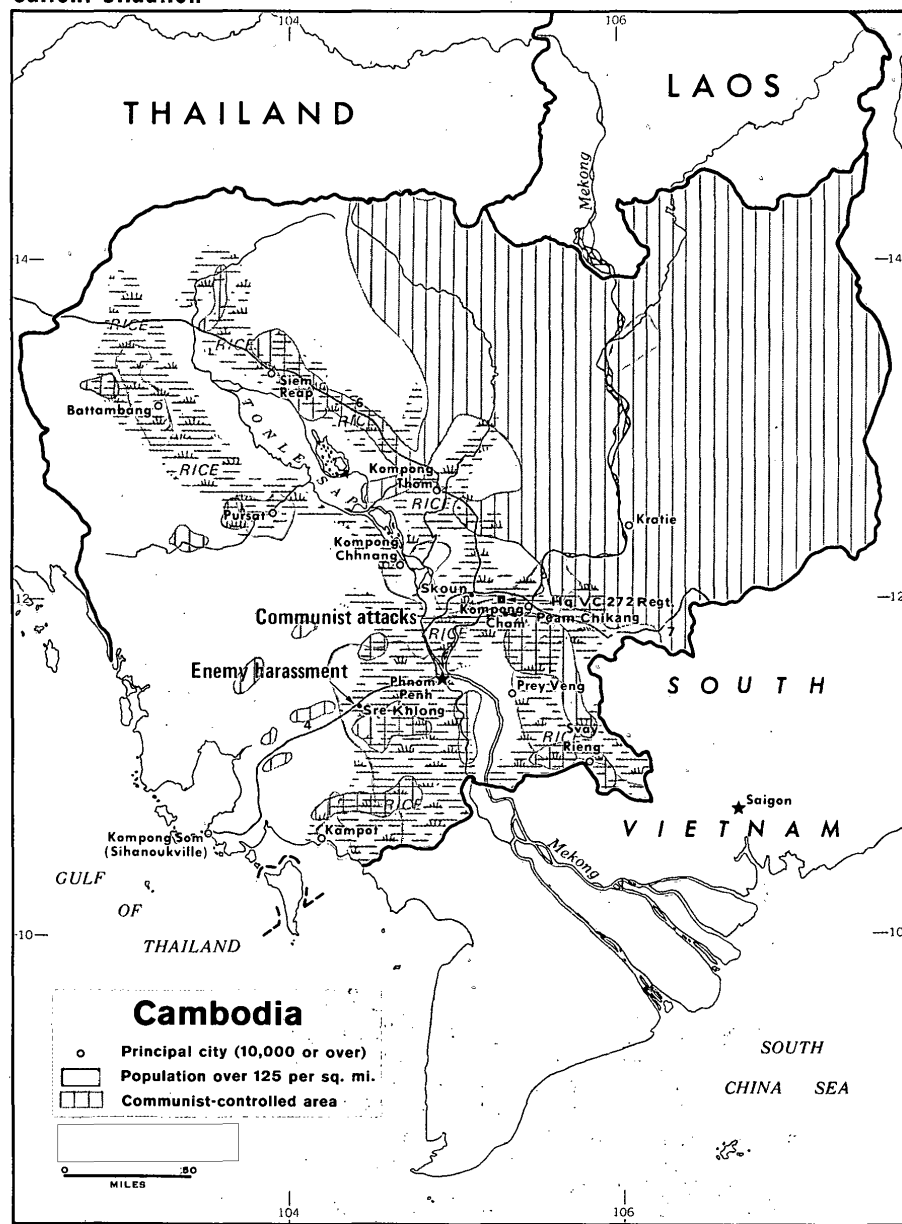


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Current Situation



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CAMBODIA

The Communists on 6 December routed three government battalions clustered at Peam Chikang, a district headquarters town some ten miles southwest of Kompong Cham. Before losing radio contact, the government commander at Peam Chikang claimed he had over 100 troops wounded, plus unknown numbers killed or missing. A senior Cambodian Army officer at Kompong Cham subsequently reported that more than 100 government soldiers had been killed in the fighting.

Cambodian losses appear to be the heaviest incurred since the enemy began to step up military activity last month. The attacks are believed to have been spearheaded by elements of the Viet Cong 272nd Regiment which recently moved to positions west of the Mekong in the vicinity of Peam Chikang. The government units engaged are among the more than 30 battalions trying to open Routes 6 and 7 northeast of Phnom Penh.

The enemy is retaining the initiative on several other fronts, disrupting government efforts to reoccupy positions along major roadways. Communist harassing attacks are preventing government troops both from reopening Route 7 between Skoun and Kompong Cham city and from advancing beyond Sre Khlong on Route 4.

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USSR-CUBA

A Cuban delegation headed by one of Castro's closest advisers is in Moscow for talks on economic agreements covering the next five years. Two long-term agreements--the basic five-year trade agreement, and a separate one covering sugar purchases--are due for renewal.

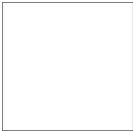
The basic trade agreement was first signed in 1960 and renewed in 1965. The current sugar agreement, signed in 1964, committed the USSR to purchase five million tons of Cuban sugar annually.

The Cubans may also make a pitch for new long-term Soviet credits. Cuba used up \$300 million in Soviet credits during 1970, raising its total economic aid debt to the USSR to approximately \$2.7 billion. The 1971 sugar harvest is not expected to match this year's record output and will force Havana to continue its reliance on significant deliveries of Soviet aid.

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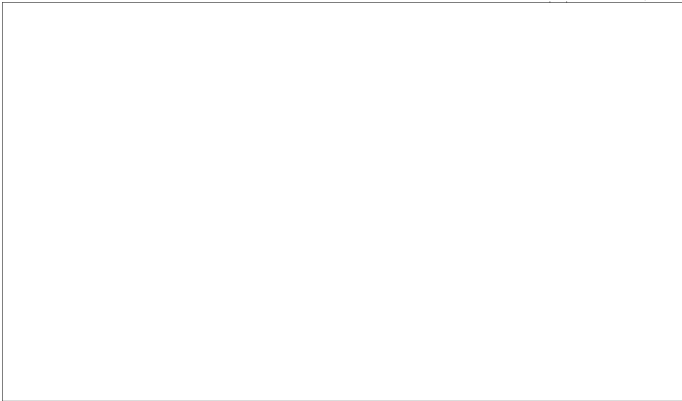
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BRAZIL



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